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RAPID ADVANCE OF PERSIAN FORCES INTO AZERBAIJAN

British Tourists Embarrass Swiss Government

London, Dec. 10. The Swiss Government recently informed the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hugh Dalton, that the extent of British tourist expenditure was causing them some embarrassment and that they wished to exercise some control over it.

Disclosing this in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Dalton said he saw no reason to object to their proposals especially in view of the increasing facilities for spending holidays in other countries.

Mr. Dalton was answering a Conservative member, Col. Erroll, who had asked what were the revised exchange arrangements for British tourists in Switzerland.

Mr. Dalton said he would circulate details later.

When Col. Erroll asked how long these restrictions would last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied: "I should think indefinitely," and added amid laughter: "At any rate, long enough for members of Parliament to explore the possibilities of the French Alps, the Italian Alps, the Carpathians, the Pyrenees and the Highlands of Scotland."

He later gave details of the arrangements whereby, as from December 18, a special Swiss certificate would be required for the allocation of funds for tourists and for their conversion to Swiss francs. He added that it was not intended to impose similar limitations on Swiss visitors to Britain.—Reuter.

French Cabinet Formation Deadlock

Paris, Dec. 10. France's leading political parties tried twice, without success, to break the stalemate on picking a new premier, and hopes of a new Cabinet by the weekend dimmed.

Party chiefs met for three hours this morning and two hours later conferred with the National Assembly President, M. Vincent Auriol, but failed to make headway on the main essential.

In the morning, an agreement in principle on the forming of a four-party coalition of Communists, Socialists, Republican Union and MRP, headed probably by a Socialist or a Left Republican, was reached, but in the second meeting there was no gain beyond that.

MRP leaders favoured the formation of a permanent all-party coalition government and were joined by the Left Republican Union in opposition to a four-party coalition.

The Socialists were reported to be favouring a temporary government merely to pass the budget.—United Press.

"WHITE AUSTRALIA" POLICY ATTACKED

New York, Dec. 10. A sharp attack by India and China against the "White Australia" policy of discrimination was the feature of this morning's discussions on the amendment to the New Guinea draft trusteeship agreement of the United Nations Trusteeship Committee.

China asked that there should be no racial discrimination on racial grounds in New Guinea.

The Indian representative said: "There is an Australian Law, known as the White Australia Law, which excludes Asiatics from Australian-controlled territories. This causes irritation in Asiatic countries. If Asiatics were expected to share in the hardships and responsibilities of war they must also have equal rights in peace."

The Australian representative replied that the question of equal rights has already been covered fully in the Charter and he saw no reason why a separate clause was required in the agreement. Paramount consideration in the Charter was pro-

PENETRATION OF TWENTY-FIVE MILES AT ONE POINT

DEMOCRATS' LEADER CALLS PROVINCE TO ARMS

TEHRAN, DEC. 10. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS STATE THAT GOVERNMENT TROOPS INVADING AZERBAIJAN HAVE CAPTURED MAINEH, THE FIRST LARGE TOWN ON THEIR ROUTE INSIDE THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE, ADJOINING SOVIET RUSSIA.

An informant said that advancing columns repaired a wrecked bridge over the river of the Golden Swimmer, penetrated the strategic Ghafankuh mountain pass and plunged five miles beyond, to take the town.

Jafar Pishavari, leader of the Azerbaijan Democrats, in an appeal broadcast over the Tabriz radio, called on the people and armed forces of Azerbaijan to go to the front and fight against the Central Government.

Persia's Chief of General Staff earlier to-day reported that the Government troops had advanced 25 miles, inflicting heavy casualties on Azerbaijan forces and capturing many prisoners.

Nearly 24 hours after the first frontier crossing, the Chief of Staff said a general advance continued in all sectors.

Teheran authorities had reported earlier that their units were massed along the entire length of the Azerbaijan frontier. The greatest advance into Azerbaijan was attributed to the column moving out of the Takab area on the frontier. The penetration of 25 miles in less than fully a day indicated that whatever

INDIA STATEMENT POSTPONED

London, Dec. 10. It was officially announced that the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, had postponed making the statement on India in the House of Commons until to-morrow. The decision apparently was taken after the Cabinet meeting this morning, at which Mr. Attlee gave full details of last week's talks with the Viceroy of India and four Indian political leaders.

It is understood that Mr. Attlee will consult with Opposition members with a view to seeking deferment of the debate in the Commons, which was scheduled for Thursday and Friday, pending developments at the Indian Constituent Assembly in New Delhi.

Some quarters believe the Commons debate on India might be abandoned entirely unless Mr. Winston Churchill exercises opposition pressure.—United Press.

Jews Raid Arab Defence Group Headquarters

Jerusalem, Dec. 10. Four Jews, armed with automatic weapons, raided the headquarters of the Najjada Arab Defence organisation in Jaffa, last night.

After searching the premises the raiders carried off a number of leaflets, a police bulletin said to-day.

This raid by the Jewish underground movement has aroused considerable feeling among the Arabs. Mohamed Nizar, Mr. Jaffa's "commander-in-chief" of the Najjadas, said to-night: "Only the strict discipline maintained inside the Najjada movement has prevented immediate reprisals in Tel Aviv against the raid on our headquarters."

He declared that Jews had recently kidnapped a member in Tel Aviv and removed him bound and gagged to Rishon, nine miles away.

After questioning him about Najjada, the Jews took our man by lorry to Rafiah in southern Palestine and left him lying helpless on the roadside. He was saved by a passing Bedouin.

He also said that he had asked permission to arm a number of Najjada's staff officers for protection of the headquarters.

An unknown person hurled a hand-grenade at a Greek Orthodox church building in Jerusalem's walled Old City last night, a police bulletin said to-day.

There were no casualties and no damage.—Reuter.

INDIAN ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN SELECTED

New Delhi, Dec. 10. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was nominated without opposition for chairmanship of India's Constituent Assembly to-day. His formal election will be to-morrow.

Prasad is Food Minister of the Interim Government of India. He is a member of the predominantly Hindu All-India Congress Party.

His nomination was followed by a bolsheroous second-day session, in contrast with Monday's solemn opening of the Assembly. There were several lively debates over resolutions finally approved for establishing a Rules Committee and adopting rules of the Constituent Assembly pending the formulation of Constituent Assembly rules.—Associated Press.

Charge Against Bickerton Withdrawn

The allegations against William Maxwell Bickerton of snatching a watch from R. Element, of HMS Penn, were withdrawn by the prosecution which stated that an apology has been tendered to Bickerton for the mistake made.

Bickerton, defended by Mr. D. B. Evans, was alleged to have snatched the watch from Element in Queen's Road Central, near the junction of Garden Road, on December 3.

Inspector Sell told Mr. Sheldon, before whom Bickerton was originally charged, that he had gone thoroughly into the evidence of the case and obviously a mistake had been made. He said Element also now agreed that a mistake had been made and was ready to make an apology for the mistake. He asked for withdrawal of the case.

Mr. Evans said Bickerton appeared on a serious charge which was reported in the newspapers. He added: "I would ask that the reporters should give as much publicity to the withdrawal of the charge as they did when Bickerton last appeared."

Mr. Evans said Bickerton is a responsible person and those who know him must have realised the charge was fantastic. It is, therefore, desirable that notice should be given to the withdrawal of the charge.

Mr. Sheldon, who said he knew Bickerton, expressed gladness that the matter was cleared up in this way, adding: "I am sure the press will give all the publicity they can about this matter."

Many Countries Will Need Aid During 1947

Washington, Dec. 10. The Director General of UNRRA, Mr. Fiorello LaGuardia, told the 48-nation UNRRA Council that the international relief agency was making every effort to wind up its affairs on schedule, but warned that many countries would continue to need help through 1947.

The U. S. Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, urged the Council to keep alive the initial spirit with which it undertook its relief job, even though it was now passing the work to other hands.

Mr. LaGuardia said 72 per cent of the agency's job was completed on November 15. He said the status of supplies ordered by UNRRA but not delivered was under review. Those which could not be delivered on time would be cancelled.

The Director said UNRRA received \$58,003,375.978 from member countries by November 15. Of this, \$1,133,700,670 were committed for food, \$429,710,810 for clothing and textiles, \$684,707,331 for industrial equipment, \$342,586,528 for agricultural supplies, and \$115,772,507 for medical supplies.

He also said \$602,000,000 worth of goods was yet to be shipped and the programme would run to at least March for Europe and August for China. He said \$229,104,000 worth of goods had been sent to China or about 43 per cent of the programme for that country, and \$2,655,000 to the Philippines or about 24 per cent of the programme.—United Press.

U. S. Surplus Ships Bought By China

Shanghai, Dec. 10. Local Chinese shipping companies, both state-operated and private, will soon receive a total of 159 American surplus ships amounting to about 800,000 tons purchased by the Government from the United States, according to Mr. Li Yun-lung, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Steamship Companies' Guild. The ships will be used as compensation for war losses, and distributed equally to various shipping companies, he said.

Important Red City In North Kiangsu Falls

Nanking, Dec. 11. Government troops stormed into the city of Yencheng in North Kiangsu at 8 a.m. yesterday morning and fierce street fighting is progressing, according to the Hsin Min Pao.

Yencheng is the southern anchor of the 100-mile Communist line which runs to Shuyang via Huaiyung, north-east of the Grand Canal and south of the Lunghai Railway. The paper said the Government troops advancing from Chianant-sien, Wuyuechang and Tokang—towns south-west and south of Yencheng—battered into the suburbs and forced their way into the city where they are encountering stiff resistance.

It said the complete occupation of Yencheng would pave the way for a Government drive on Funing, 28 miles north-west of Yencheng, which is an important Communist base.—United Press.

ACCOUNTS UNFROZEN

We are informed that the National City Bank and The Cheong Cheong Bank have unfrozen all pre-war accounts.

Honan Fighting

Peking, Dec. 9. Fighting was renewed in North Honan recently when 80,000 Communists, under the command of Liu Po-cheng, from Laihuan, on the north-east border of Honan, attacked the cities of Anyang and Huashien.—Central News.

Hengchu Falls to Reds

Taiyuan, Dec. 10. The Yellow River town of Hengchu, in southern Shansi, near the Honan border, was occupied by Communist troops last night according to reports received here to-day.—Central News.

Agreement For Taking Over Of Dairen

Peking, Dec. 10. Sino-Soviet negotiations for the taking over of Dairen by Nationalist troops are nearing conclusion to-day with an agreement in principle already reached on all important points, according to the Social Welfare Daily.

The paper said negotiations have been taking place both in Antung and at a certain place in North Korea. Presumably the main negotiators are Gen. Ivan Chestakov, Commander-in-Chief of Soviet forces in North Korea, whose headquarters are in Shinglishu, and Gen. Chao Kung-wu, Nationalist garrison commander of Antung. Shinglishu and Antung are border cities across the Yalu River and linked by the International Bridge.

The three main points on which agreement was reached were listed as: (1) Dairen will be a free port under Chinese Nationalist administration in which ships of all nations can enjoy equal privileges; (2) the Soviets will be granted, however, special docking and warehouse rights; (3) all administrative rights in Dairen, including the city proper as well as the port will be under the complete jurisdiction of the Chinese Central Government.

The paper added that Nationalist troops have been marking time outside of Dairen during the past 10 days of the negotiations. It indicated that once an agreement is reached there is every likelihood the Nationalist troops will parade into this biggest south Manchurian port without a clash with the Communists who, in the meantime, have been evacuating the city in small boats to Shantung Peninsula.—United Press.

Rebel Labour Group Dissatisfied With Representation Abroad

CALL FOR FEWER CAREER DIPLOMATS

London, Dec. 10. The British Government is facing another revolt by a strong and influential section of the Parliamentary Party who are not only dissatisfied with many aspects of British policy, but also with the handling of British diplomatic affairs by permanent officials at the Foreign Office.

The rebel group, which is the same as that responsible for staging the recent foreign policy revolt, have now got on their side an external affairs group of the Parliamentary Labour Party, which consists of nearly 40 members of Parliament, very few of whom can legitimately be described as being either very much to the Left or "crypto-Communists."

The External Affairs group had a meeting last night and among other things, decided to ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, several questions on reports that have been published in the American press quoting British official sources, particularly the War Office, for saying that British and American Governments have agreed to standardise military equipment.

Questions have been asked in the House of Commons about these reports and the answers are considered to have been thoroughly unsatisfactory to many members of the External Affairs group who are now planning their private approach to the Premier. If this private approach fails they intend to raise the matter at a full meeting of the Parliamentary Labour party and after that, if necessary, in the House of Commons itself.

Another matter that is concerning the External Affairs group is the British diplomatic representation abroad. For a long time members of the Labour Party, and not only those who have been associated with the rebel group, have complained that British representatives abroad are members of an "old school clique" who are violently anti-Russian and do not adequately represent Britain's Socialist Government.

Goodwill Dissipated They allege that the tremendous goodwill which the Labour Party had in Europe when it came into power a little over a year ago, has been dissipated because British diplomats are out of touch with Socialist thought on foreign policy and are out of touch with the ideology of many European Left-Wing Governments.

They want a complete reform of the Foreign Office staff with fewer career diplomats and more direct Labour Party influence in the Office.

They propose that to accomplish this a Labour Party committee should be appointed to put the views of the Party before the Foreign Secretary and thus influence British foreign policy.

At the same time, trade union members of Parliament are urging the Government to release more men from the forces for industry and are pointing out that the export drive on which the whole of British prosperity depends, cannot reach the desired level unless the manpower shortage is overcome.

The foreign policy of the Labour Party is linked with this because the rebels have been urging, on the (Continued on Page 4)

Paratroops Want To Fight Against General Franco

London, Dec. 10. Two hundred British ex-Servicemen, including paratroops, have volunteered to fight Gen. Franco in the ranks of the International Brigade, should the brigade decide to return to Spain, said Miss Nancy Green, the National Secretary of the Brigade, in an interview to-day.

"We have had to send a circular letter to these people declining their offer," Miss Green added.

"Although many of the applications came from ex-soldiers who could not settle down as civilians, a great number had genuine desires to fight with General Franco."

Miss Green made it clear that the International Brigade had absolutely no intention that International Brigades in any country should resort to the purpose of fighting in Spain.

Miss Green worked for 16 months as a medical organiser on the Ebro front—from July, 1937, to November, 1938. She lost her husband on the last day of fighting by the International Brigade. After her re-marriage she paid a recent visit to Spain, using her present name, Mrs. Nancy Brake.

The Spanish Government did not discover her true identity.—Reuter.

BRITISH ULTIMATUM TO ALBANIA

London, Dec. 10.

The British Government to-day revealed, in an ultimatum to Albania, that it had threatened to place the mining of the Corfu Straits before the United Nations Security Council.

The text of the British note to Albania revealed that the Government has served notice that it was raising the mine question before the Council as a breach of peace unless Albania provided a satisfactory explanation within 14 days.

Two British destroyers hit mines in the Corfu Channel off Albania on October 22 with more than two score of casualties.—United Press.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN ANGLO-US RELATIONS

New York, Dec. 10. Britain owed the rest of the world \$5,000,000,000 as the result of her war exertions, Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador to the United States, said here to-day.

"Few people have suggested that the German people could pay more than \$2,500,000,000 in reparations. It is an odd commentary on the way the world works that a great aggressor should be likely to escape with its burden of foreign debt little more than that falling on the country which first took up the sword in the defence of freedom."

Addressing the English-Speaking Union at a dinner, Lord Inverchapel replied to the misconceptions of the ideal of Anglo-Saxon friendship, saying: "Our political comradeship sins against no man. It never has and never will."

"The favourite question in both countries is 'Who is pulling whose chestnuts out of what fire?' " "We must at all costs see to it our relations do not again become embittered as they were between the two World Wars. No enterprise is more threatened by an accumulation of small misunderstandings than the Anglo-American world."—Reuter.

Epic Work To Give Displaced Persons Hope For Future

As soon as World War II ended in Europe, Britain's voluntary societies, all under the protection of UNRRA, but each of them responsible for their own members, began to send volunteers over to the Continent to work in the British zone. To-day there are 800 of these people belonging to 17 different voluntary societies doing relief work, as well as many other workers from all the Allied nations in other parts of Europe.

Among these 800 there are 450 British subjects and of these the majority are women. At the time these women undertook their pilgrimage to Holland, Belgium and Germany, there were very few men available although there were certain units consisting of conscientious objectors (who have done some truly remarkable work) and Quakers.

In groups of 10 and 12 the women started their tremendous work. A group took complete charge of a camp or group of camps, assembly centres or where the displaced persons had been left in the most humiliating and shocking conditions. The first job was to make the camp or centre habitable, to improve the sanitary and health conditions, to provide doctors and nurses, to start clinics, sick boys, schools and recreational centres.

This task, even now is not completed, because the conditions are continually being improved, but after a short time the camps and settlements were in sufficiently good order to enable the workers to begin to prepare the unfortunate people living there for a new life, for repatriation or resettlement.

To begin with, these men, women and children had to be led back to family life and to some semblance of normal conditions. Here the admirable spirit of these women helped the workers to begin to build up the children. The instinct to survive had been demonstrated throughout the long years of their captivity; now the workers saw the deep-seated belief of mankind in kindness and truth slowly but surely reviving.

After they had made some slight physical recovery, some of the victims of what had been probably the world's most horrible tyranny offered to undertake the education of the children.

Schoolrooms Crowded
Again the workers saw something which uplifted their hearts. These children, who had been without any schools and any knowledge except of their remembered years, crowded eagerly into the tiny rooms which had been prepared as schoolrooms. Every day you could see teachers surrounded by groups of listening children. At first they were taught with books, paper, pencils and without even a blackboard, the children assimilated the knowledge eagerly.

Later the workers provided the schools and camps with as much in the way of books and writing material as they could get although these were not easy to procure at first. Yet, little by little, the contingents from Britain with the help of the people at home, built up the equipment in their zone, while in other zones similar work continued.

The most remarkable fact in this big campaign for the rehabilitation and re-education of so many thousands of people was the ability of women workers to improvise in any circumstances. They were faced with the strangest and most unusual situations arising from the unnatural conditions of people in camps and settlements. No theoretical training in social work could anticipate the inhuman reality.

Delicate Handling
There was much to be considered. Not only the ordinary camp work had to be done and the care of children and adults carried on—and this was achieved admirably as the results proved—but much more was needed. The incredible problems which had

made life for the imprisoned people unbearable—and in many cases had led to suicide or at least to complete mistrust of the world—had to be handled with the utmost delicacy. To help in this situation the workers organized all kinds of training schools; there were classes for technical subjects, for trades, for agriculture and fishing; for higher education and preparation for the universities.

To-day in each university on the Continent re-opened by the Allied Control Commission 10 percent of all places are kept for displaced persons. Reports on some of these students have already come in and it has been found that in most cases these young people fit into the communal life remarkably well.

The epic work of these Societies, among which are the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Society of Catholic Relief and the Jewish Committee of Relief—to mention only four—has had to be seen to be believed. These men and women, with their colleagues from the other United Nations, have saved the lives of many thousands from disaster, not only in the physical but in the spiritual sense. It is one of the greatest human stories and the post-war period and as such will go down in history.

DRIED FRUIT EXPERIMENTS

The technique of fruit drying recently carried out by the Food Investigation Board of Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has increased the range of possible dried fruit products. Not only can high quality dried fruit be produced for normal uses, but delicious new sweetmeats in the form of fruit powders and fruit wafers are now possible by a method of drying to low water-content. In particular, a vastly improved fruit bar suitable for use in dry emergency rations can be made.

In the process, ordinary dried fruit of 15 to 20 percent water is further dehydrated after mixing to a lower moisture content of five to eight percent. Before the first or final dehydration the fruit is treated with a mixture of glycerol and sugar with the result that it can be mixed with dry powdered fruits, yielding bars of low water-content with a variety of textures.

The flavour and colour of the fruit is maintained even after a lengthy storage in tropical climates.

Transmitters For South Africa

Six new transmitters are required by the South African Broadcasting Corporation for the expansion of its broadcasting service. Despite strong American competition the contract was placed with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company of London.

British receiving sets are also in great demand throughout the world. 35,000 radio sets were exported from Britain during the month of July alone—five times the pre-war number over a corresponding period.

HELICOPTER'S MILITARY POSSIBILITIES

Before the war the Services, particularly the Army, had begun to take an interest in the military possibilities of the helicopter. By the end of the war its development had reached a stage where its use in the Services became a practical proposition.

During the war, owing to Britain's agreement with the USA that she should lend the Americans her helicopter knowledge and experts while she concentrated her resources in other directions, there are now no British helicopters in production, though a number of firms are producing prototypes.

There are, however, a small number of American Sikorsky helicopters in Britain, and a decision has been taken to issue some of them for training purposes.

It is necessary for the pilots and ground crews to receive adequate instruction in this type of machine, which in many respects is completely different from orthodox aircraft and requires expert knowledge to fly and service. Training is expected to be completed in three to four months.

When pilots become proficient, tactical trials with Sikorsky helicopters will be held under the direction of the Air Ministry and War Office. Two other Hoverflys will be issued to the Air-Sea Warfare Department Unit for investigation into their possibility for rescue work. All the pilots of this flight will be Royal Artillery officers, while the ground crew will be provided by the RAF.

The results of these trials will provide information not only for the Services, but also for the Ministry of Supply, in deciding future types of helicopter.

FAIR WILL SHOW WIDE RANGE OF EXPORT TRADE

The British Industries Fair, which will be held next year from May 5 to 16 in London and Birmingham, will be a national display of the quality and range of a large number of British products which enter into Britain's export trade. Indeed, all the goods to be shown at the Fair will be available for export.

The Fair is perhaps unique in two major aspects. In the first place, it is entirely national in character, and only goods produced in the United Kingdom or in any other part of the British Commonwealth may be shown. In the second place, participation in it, with the single exception of one trade group, is confined to the actual manufacturers of the articles exhibited.

The one exception is the Textile section, where, owing to the many stages of manufacture which are carried out independently in the industry, there was found to be obvious difficulty in confining participation to manufacturers. Merchant firms are, therefore, permitted to exhibit in this one section of the Fair.

Low-Temperature Technology

Research into the field of low-temperature technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London was revealed recently at a meeting of the Low Temperature Group.

After tackling and solving a variety of problems during World War II, the Department extended its scope with the end of hostilities.

Among the many activities of the Department at present is the investigation into a method of purifying gases from small quantities of condensable constituents by injecting a stream of cold pure gas, while the factors influencing the adhesion of frozen particles to tube walls are also the subject of experiment.

The properties of lubricants at low temperatures is being investigated by the technical staff, and apparatus has been designed and built which will determine the latent heat of vaporization of binary mixtures at low temperatures and pressures above atmospheric.

France Wants Loan From Australia

Canberra, Dec. 10.
France is trying to get a loan from Australia, otherwise she cannot maintain her place as Australia's third best customer, M. Pierre Augé, the French Minister to the Commonwealth, said here to-day.

He added there was an unsatisfactory discrepancy in the balance of trade between the two countries. France's purchasing power was bound up in her economic recovery and this was largely dependent on material and financial assistance from her principal suppliers, he asserted.

The United States, in granting a further large loan, had lifted the restrictions which might have impeded the sale of French goods and Canada and the Argentine had also granted credit facilities, but the position remained acute in the aid battle, despite British assistance. —Reuter.

WELSH NEWSLETTER

By J. C. Griffith Jones.

Wales has long been called a "land of song". That reputation has been gained largely because of the Welsh people's zeal for choral singing. Before the war most Welsh towns of any size had their own choral societies, many villages were also proud of their singing "school" choirs. Most chapels and churches have choirs, not forgetting their community singing festivals "cymantoga". The Welsh sing—all out—in harmony, at football matches and funerals, too! In the industrial areas, especially in South Wales, the choral tradition was kept alive all through the war by civil defence and fire services' organisations and by factory choirs.

Now the big choral societies are being revived all over Wales. There will be more and better choral societies at next year's National Eisteddfod, at Colwyn Bay, than we have listened to since the late 1930's. Some of the big-scale song festivals reserved for choirs are also likely to be revived next year. The Three Valleys Festival at Mountain Ash, for instance.

The most interesting thing that happened to Wales, musically, during the war, however, was that it developed a greater interest than ever before in orchestral music. Until recently the very time to orchestral music was the time to the bombs altered that.

New Musical Tradition
For the first time some of Britain's orchestras visited Wales, not occasionally but regularly. The B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, came to the Valleys, played at Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Abercrombie, drawing large audiences. The result of these visits was the formation of the Welsh Light Music Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, performed great music even during the blitzes.

C.E.M.A. and E.N.S.A. concerts everywhere included orchestral programmes. Wales tuned in to the radio to good orchestras. A new music taste and tradition were being formed.

What was started during the war has not been forgotten. There are indications that Wales is becoming as keen now on orchestral as it has been on choral music. Scores of music clubs have sprung up and their thousands of supporters are calling for the best orchestral music available.

This movement will be further encouraged by several recent developments. Recently the B.B.C.'s Welsh Light Music Orchestra was revived. It was wound up at the outbreak of war. Now its strength has been increased to 31 players under the conductorship of Mansel Thomas who, as an Army sergeant, created a Garrison Orchestra at Brussels during the war and provided music for 500,000 French fans during the war.

This new band of Welsh radio music-makers will broadcast daily from a chapel vestry in Cardiff. Soon they will give lunch-hour concerts, probably from the National Concert Hall in Cardiff. And later, I am told, they will visit various halls in different parts of Wales to share out the melody.

Welsh National Orchestra
An even bigger musical event for Wales is the appointment of a music expert by the Arts Council of Great Britain to tour the country to investigate the possibilities of forming a Welsh national orchestra. This idea of a full orchestra of 60 or more players is a national standing is not new. It has been talked of for years but nobody got down to organising such a body of musicians on a sound business basis.

The Arts Council evidently means business. It has given Mr. J. H. O. Jones, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., the job of touring Wales for six months to find out whether Welsh people really want a symphony orchestra of their own, and if so whether they are prepared to find the money for some of it to maintain a permanent combination of expert musicians.

This special investigator will interview representatives of local authorities and national bodies, for without their financial support, no orchestra of this kind is possible. He must also ascertain in Wales, and how many are suitable for first-class orchestral and choral concerts.

Mr. Jones is well-fitted for this job. He is an expert musician himself, an organist and pianist who has performed all over the world. Until recently he was a Group Captain in the R.A.F. During the war he organised orchestral concerts for large R.A.F. units.

With winter setting in, cricket seems a remote delight. But every morning brings news of Hammond and his men in Australia, and already Glamorgan are preparing for next summer. After a record season financially and in the county championship the Welsh club hopes to maintain progress in 1947.

J. C. Clay and Wilfred Wooler are busy organising a drive for more members—they want 1,000 more—and tracking down promising local talent. A useful Glamorgan capture is L. Muncey, Middlesex all-rounder, who scored the fastest century in county cricket last summer.

Protection Against Radioactivity

The American Armoured Cavalry Journal, in a copyright article, said that armoured columns of the future would go into combat protected against radioactivity from atom bombs and would carry their own bridges and mine-sweepers, says United Press.

The article said blown bridges might be contaminated with persistent chemicals, virus or bacteria. It also said mines would have proximity fuses and would send out radioactive debris.

INCREASE OF AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

The United States Census Bureau says that when the decades ends in 1950, these two things will have happened to American households:—15,000,000 new ones will be formed, and 9,000,000 of the old ones will be broken up.

Thus there will be a net gain of 6,000,000 households. In Census Bureau parlance, a household is a head of a family plus relatives, lodgers and others living under the same roof and sharing common household arrangements, says United Press. The total number of U.S. families in 1950 is estimated at 41,000,000.

The reason for the big increase in the number of families is the record marriage rate in the past few years—2,000,000 a year. This is 50 per cent higher than in the late 1930's. Many of the newly-married couples have postponed establishing new households until more housing is available and their economic situation is better.

The reasons for breaking up of 9,000,000 households are chiefly death and divorce.

NAAFI'S PEAK TURNOVER

At the half-yearly meeting of the Council of NAAFI held in November, the balance sheet as at September 1, 1945, and the revenue account for the year ended on that date were approved.

The turnover for the year was approximately £182,000,000, a peak figure for the war period and the highest trading return in the history of NAAFI. Subsequently the turnover has gradually declined and to-day it is at the rate of £110,000,000 per annum.

The revenue account showed that after payment of rebate and discount and expenditure on special amenities and expenditure on the Forces (£240,647) there was a net revenue for the year of £8,045,833 which in agreement with the Services was disposed of as follows:

NAAFI/ENSA entertainment £4,864,734; Grants to Navy, Army and RAF £2,742,000; Combined Services Entertainment £400,000, with £39,099 carried forward.

NO SWEETS OR CAKES FOR THIS 4-YEAR-OLD

Sweets, cakes and all things that matter most to children, are barred to four-year-old Patsy Dodkin. Her meals consist of strained fruit and vegetable juice day after day. Two years ago Patsy developed the mysterious coeliac disease, the treatment for which is this rigid diet. She has just left a London hospital after many months and returned home.

Her mother spent several days at the hospital studying the special diet. Now she cannot feed the little invalid properly because it is impossible to buy a fruit juice extracting machine to pulp and strain the fruit and vegetables.

Safsa (Soldiers' Sailors' and Airman's Families' Association) was asked to come to the rescue since Patsy's father, an electrician, is an ex-Sergeant who served with the Royal Artillery for 6½ years during the war; and without the machine it is impossible to maintain Patsy's special diet and keep up the improvement which she has made in hospital. Safsa issued a press appeal for the machine.

London Telephone Services

London's telephone services, severely restricted during World War II, are undergoing a new process of development. For this purpose equipment is being concentrated in Faraday House in London.

Housed here are the London trunk exchange, the overseas exchange which serves non-European countries through various radio links, the toll exchange serving a wide area around the capital, and the automatic City and Central exchanges.

Over half of the 4,000 personnel are women and about 600 are engineers working on maintenance and supervision of equipment. Each week over 2,000,000 calls are dealt with.

Counterfeit Notes In Paris

Paris, Dec. 10.
The American Army authorities in Paris have called in a Treasury expert to try to check the flood of forged dollar bills in the French capital, it was disclosed to-day.

A gang is said to have inflated the black market to the extent of one million dollars, mostly in well-counterfeited \$500 notes.—Reuter.

Four Shows To-day

LEE THEATRE

TOWN BOOKING OFFICE
W. HARRING & CO. ALEXANDRA BLDG., 97, FL.
BETWEEN 11.00 A.M. AND 5.00 P.M., DAILY

WANG HAO IN HONG KIN

"DARING GARRISON"

(A CHINESE PICTURE)
COMMENCING TO-MORROW

Robert Lina TAYLOR-TURNER in

JOHNNY EAGER

A Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Picture

ORIENTAL

SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.30—9.30 P.M.
SEE THE FAMOUS COMEDY TEAM HAVE AMUSING SEQUENCE IN NEW FILM.

Dead of Night

ALICIA BRIDGEMAN
ALBERT JONES
BASIL RADFORD
GOOGIE WILKINS
DAUGHTON WAYNE
SALLY ANN HOWES

STARS

THEATRE

COMBINED SERVICES ENTERTAINMENT Presents

BLANCHE LITTLER'S COMPANY

IN "WORM'S EYE VIEW"

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS
By R. F. DELDERFIELD

NIGHTLY AT 7.30 P.M.
BOOKING HOURS: 12 p.m.—2 p.m. 4 p.m.—6.30 p.m.
Telephone: 58335.

Seats booked by Telephone will be kept up to 6.30 p.m. only.

4 SHOWS DAILY

GATHAY

WANCHAI ROAD WANCHAI
EAGLE LION PRESENT

Phyllis CALVERT • James MASON in

"THEY WERE SISTERS"

COMMENCING FRIDAY
"THE BEST OF 'BEST TEN' IN 1945"

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S "WILSON" IN TECHNICOLOR

DEATH RAILWAY MEMORIAL

London, Dec. 10.
A ceremony to commemorate the men who died during the construction of the Burma-Siam railway will be held on December 18 at Thanbyazayat—the beginning of the railway on the Burma side, 45 miles south of Moulmein.

600 Chinese Coming From Canada

San Francisco, Dec. 10.
The steamship General W. H. Gordon of the American President Line, sailed to-day with nearly 600 Chinese from Canada bound for Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore. The Chinese are the fifth such group returning to their homeland since the war's end. Over 800 others are awaiting transportation and hundreds of others await reopening of the closed reservation lists. —Associated Press.

CAMBODIA GOVERNMENT

Paris, Dec. 8.
Prince Monireth, Prime Minister of Cambodia, to-day handed his Government's resignation to King Sihanouk, who asked him to form a new government, according to a French Press Agency despatch.—Reuter.

SYRIAN REBEL SENTENCED

Beirut, Dec. 10.
Salman el Mourchid, who is looked upon as god by 300,000 Syrian Alouites, was condemned to death by a court at Latakia to-day, and he is said to have been executed by hanging—no longer wanted to live.

Accused of conspiring with foreign Powers against the State, Mourchid was expected to be hanged for taking up arms with his own private army to fight the Government.

His two sons—he is the father of 18 legitimate children by 15 wives—named Fadil and Mouleeb were sentenced to life imprisonment in the same case, and 17 other fanatic followers got penalties of from four to 15 years' hard labour. Thirty-one were acquitted.

No sooner had the court pronounced sentence than the onetime shepherd boy, called a common buccanner by the prosecution, announced he now preferred death, life and wanted to die quickly. —United Press.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



The only thing the mailman brought was the paper. Mom—it says here the atom will open up a new world of modern comfort and convenience!

The China Morning Post, Limited
3, Wyndham Street, City of Vic-
toria, in the Colony of Hongkong.